

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Richard Oman <papa\_oman@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:37 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** HB 5097

As a retired educator I am deeply concerned by efforts such as this to censor history. All ready our society is hampered by lack of knowledge and understanding of history as we have sought to fulfill mandated subject matter expansion. At the least we need to teach a full range of America's history so that successes may be celebrated and failures noted for improvement efforts.

Please - VOTE NO ON HB 5097

Thank you - Richard Oman, Muskegon, MI

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Allison McKenna <allielune@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:37 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Allison McKenna. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I trust our children to learn from the truth and to be guided to making better decisions in how they treat other people than we have in our past.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,  
Allison McKenna

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Tonya Wells <wellstk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:39 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** HB 5097

To the Members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Tonya Wells. I write to you today in full opposition to HB5097. A public education that includes the truth about history is essential to ensuring our children grow up to be responsible citizens.

I have several close friends that are German, and I think we can learn something about how to describe the history of white supremacy from their handling of Nazism. The holocaust and the horrifying nature of the Nazi regime is taught in great detail to all students in their schools from a very early age. This is part of how they assure history does not repeat itself.

Recently I learned through reading the book, Caste, by Isabel Wilkerson that the Third Reich studied American law, particularly laws in the South, as it developed approaches for its race-based laws. Why when we teach World War II and the atrocities of the Third Reich, do our history books leave out this important connection to U.S. laws that addressed race in the 1900s. This, and more, is what needs to be taught in our schools so that we present the whole story to our children.

As a white woman of significant privilege, I have taken it upon myself to learn more about the systemic racism that has plagued and continues to plague our country. The learnings have fundamentally changed me and how I view the injustice that still exists today. Our country can be better and do better, but preventing a robust education about race in our public schools will only hinder our progress.

Please vote against HB5097.

Sincerely,  
Tonya Wells  
Resident, Grosse Pointe Farms

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Cammy Lenning <cammysuern@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:39 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Fw: Statement in Opposition to HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Cammy Lenning. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history that manifests the truth of our journey to a more robust and healthy democracy.

I reside in Kalamazoo, and my daughter, a high schooler, and Chinese by birth, is eager to know the truth of history and is well aware that our history is a story that has both good and bad, reflective of the human condition.

I am deeply concerned, as a parent, that we are regulating a system of thought. Critical Race Theory is thinking critically about race and how it manifests itself within systems designed to meet the needs of all Americans. We should not fear this, and how it is being depicted and distorted.

We cannot begin going down a road to limit critical thinking, especially in public schools where we are striving to raise good humans who are concerned about their community and are seeking to be productive members of our democracy.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

*Cammy Lenning*

[cammysuern@yahoo.com](mailto:cammysuern@yahoo.com)

269-491-9283

*True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Mary Anne Brush <maryannebrush@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:40 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Mary Anne Brush. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history. Banning "race or gender stereotyping" in essence means banning any discussion of race whatsoever. This is a slippery slope to banning books and even use of certain words, like "racism," "white privilege," "diversity" and even "slavery."

How does one teach students about our shared history of enslavement, the Tulsa massacre, Jim Crow, redlining, segregation in schools or our racialized carceral state without including discussion of the role racism has played in shaping our country?

If your intent is to shut down critical thinking of any kind among students and shackle teachers from engaging in meaningful discussion and teaching our country's true history, then the passage of this bill would set you well on your way.

This bill is offensive and by its existence plays into race and gender stereotyping by eliminating any discussion, critical thinking or analysis around issues of race and racism.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Mary Anne Brush  
Resident, Grosse Pointe Park

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Margo Noss <mdnoss@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:45 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Marjorie Noss. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers and students should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history. We did not become a great nation by hiding from difficulty~we are a great nation because we face tragedy, and learn from struggle. We can do hard things and we should give our children the opportunity to do the same.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Noss  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
Mdnoss0428@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Kelly Frost <kmfrost98@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:59 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Kelly Frost. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I want my children to have access to a full and complete history of our country--I know that many of the injustices done in the past have continued to reverberate into the present. If we as a country do not acknowledge our past, we will continue in this painful cycle. An important part of this is the education of our children.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Frost

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Want what you have; do what you can; be who you are. ~Forrest Church

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Rana Findling <rana.findling@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:05 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097

My name is Rana Findling. I am writing today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers and students should have the freedom to discuss history, even uncomfortable aspects of history without government restrictions. Our teachers teach history and it is often messy. Please do not allow this bill to move forward. Our students deserve to be taught the truth.



## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Candice Fleszar <cfleszar@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097  
**Attachments:** received\_379291233869592.jpeg

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Candice Fleszar. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

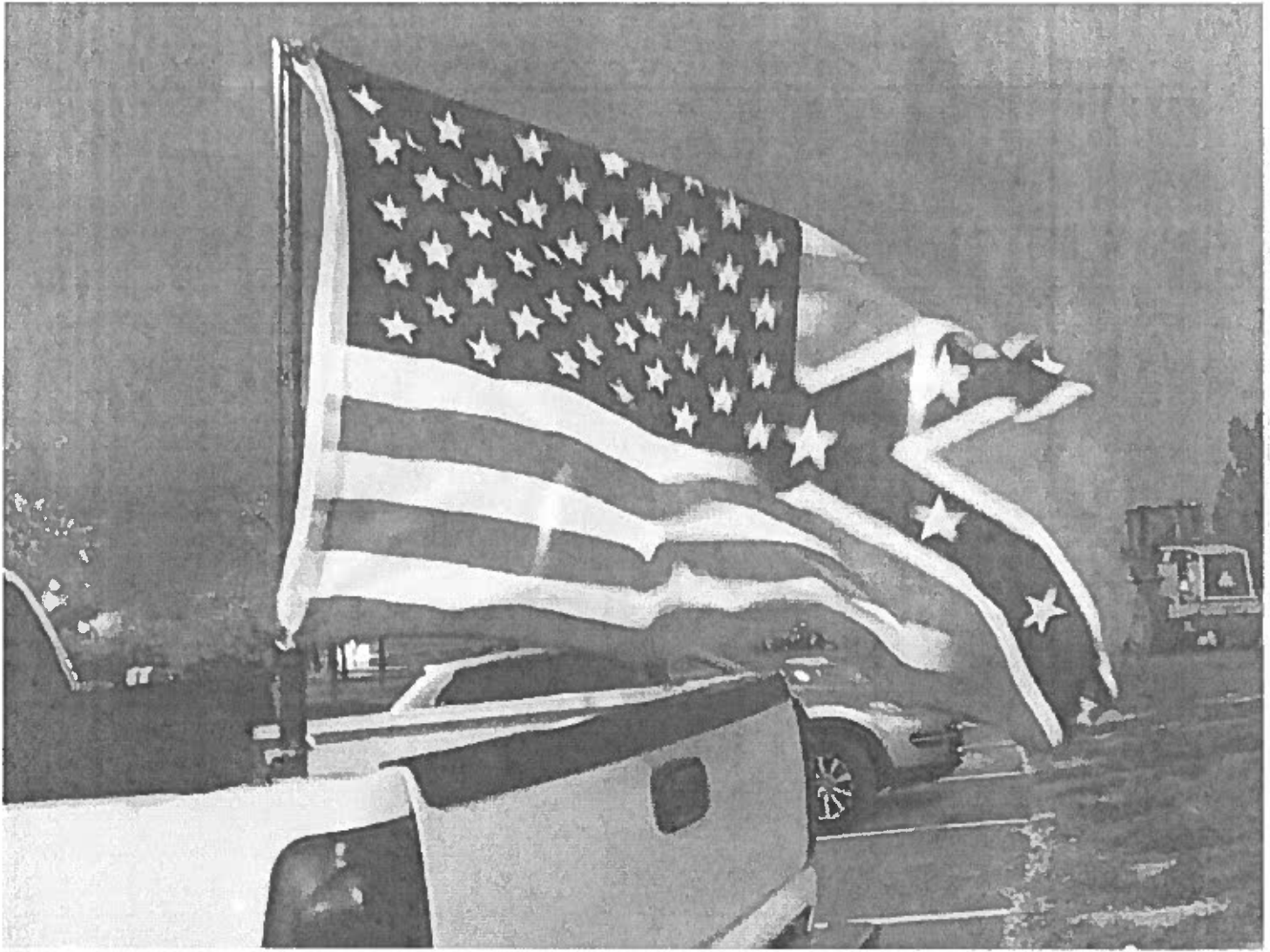
Just this morning in dropping off my high schooler, I saw a flag in the parking lot on a parked student vehicle that was part Confederate Flag. (Photo attached) This is unacceptable and highlights the lack of education in the area of race issues.

As the mother of four children in the public schools, it's important for my children to understand history from perspectives that have been muted.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Candice Fleszar



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## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** gayle bachert <gaylebachert@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:58 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony, the Committee

Dear Taylor Thrush, the Committee

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Gayle Bachert. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,  
Gayle Bachert

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Cindy Johnson <cindjohn219@gmail.com >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:00 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written testimony against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Cynthia Johnson, of Augusta, Michigan. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Johnson  
12208 S Sherman Lake Dr  
Augusta, MI 49012

Sent from my iPad

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Christina Smith <christinasmith34@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:05 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Reject the HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Christina Smith. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

This bill looks to erase important parts of history that have been whitewashed. We have made progress in making people feel represented fairly in our education system. This bill will belittles the importance of the experiences of all people in our nation.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Christina Smith

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Christopher Nagle <cnagle\_notes@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:48 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Christopher Nagle, and I have been a teacher and a teacher educator for over 20 years in Michigan. I write to you today in strong opposition to HB 5097. Without question, our teachers and our students should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly challenging and uncomfortable history.

Much of the history of our great nation is mixed, and it includes plenty of difficult material, from the founding of the nation through to its current state today. This content should not ever be dictated by legislators. Teachers are the content experts, and they are not doing their job responsibly or serving our students by hiding the true picture of American history. All of us must reckon with it in its full richness and complexity, or we fail in our duty as citizens.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097 as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Christopher C. Nagle, Ph.D.

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Dolores Strom <doloresstrom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 1:03 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written testimony against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Dolores Strom, and I am a Michigan resident. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

Our great nation is strong enough to take an honest look at the truth of our history. That is the only way that the wounds of our nation can heal. We must bravely and honestly acknowledge the devastating impacts of our shared history of white supremacist enslavement, Jim Crow, redlining, segregation in schools, and our racialized carceral state. These and myriad other intentional methods of institutional violence must be studied so that their impacts may be transformed — through education and reparations — into equity and, ultimately, liberty for us all.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,  
Dolores A. Strom

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Kimberly Ridley <ridleyk@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 1:16 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** No to HB 5097-written testimony

Taylor Thrush, Committe Clerk,

My name is Kimberly Ridley. I vote every election in Portage, MI. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers and students should have the freedom to discuss history, especially uncomfortable history. Our students and young people are ready for this.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Kimberly Ridley



## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Esther Brower <pmfloral@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 1:22 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** HB5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Esther Brower. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history that manifests the truth of our journey to a more robust and healthy democracy.

I am deeply concerned that we are regulating a system of thought. Critical Race Theory is thinking critically about race and how it manifests itself within systems designed to meet the needs of all Americans. We should not fear this, and how it is being depicted and distorted.

We cannot begin going down a road to limit critical thinking, especially in public schools where we are striving to raise good humans who are concerned about their community and are seeking to be productive members of our democracy.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Esther Brower  
Kalamazoo MI

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Jenny Joy Doezema <jennyjoydoezema@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:06 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Jenny Doezema. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

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I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,  
(Your Name)

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\*\*Also this was my addition, you're welcome to use it as a template if you'd like:

We have not, as a country, begun to scrutinize the devastating impacts of our shared history of white supremacist enslavement, Jim Crow, redlining, segregation in schools, and our racialized carceral state. These and myriad other intentional methods of institutional violence must be studied so that their impacts may be transformed — through education and reparations — into equity and, ultimately, liberty for us all.

Hey!

Rise.shine.be you

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Jenny Joy Doezema <jennyjoydoezema@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:19 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

Please excuse my premature send of that last email.

My name is Jenny Doezema. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

If we are truly a society dedicated to democracy, this freedom requires informed, honest dialogue. If we censor fact and censor dialogue we are our own barrier toward realizing this goal. Is our hope to idolize our historic leaders? Will we do this despite the impact censoring truths may have on our current lives and futures? What would happen if we humanize our history so we might improve upon the incredible and also flawed actions of past leaders toward a more equitable future nation? Teachers and youth deserve to be trusted with this knowledge. A democracy determines that it is not for us to decide what types of knowledge are acceptable to have access to and not.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,  
Jenny Doezema.

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## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Nora Madden <noraneedles@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:46 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Nora Madden, and I am a resident of my hometown of Lansing. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history. Indeed, a more just future requires it!

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,  
Nora Madden

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** cathychitt@att.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 3:17 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097

Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Cathy Chittenden. I am a retired teacher of 30 years and also a child of 2 educators. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

Knowledge and understanding is the only way to learn and move forward.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Cathy Chittenden

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** linda tomala <linda.tomala@gmail.com >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:17 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Linda Tomala, a citizen of Michigan and the city of Livonia. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. I am a former educator and believe that teachers and students should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

It is not the role of the government or the state or local school board, to determine how to teach the history of this country. Educators spend years studying, researching and examining history in order to teach it with expertise and competence.

The debate over Critical Race Theory is not really a debate. It is a manufactured crisis because of fear and rhetoric. It's vitally important to teach our children about the legacy of systemic forces at play in creating the inequity that still persists between whites and persons of color, no matter their national or ethnic origin. We will never overcome racism through colorblindness or denial. We will only overcome it when we choose to confront it and dismantle it. The first step is education.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Linda Tomala

Sent from my iPhone

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** John Ephland <jrephland@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 5:38 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is John Ephland. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

John Ephland  
Kalamazoo

Thank you!

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Brenda Shufelt <bgshufelt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 5:47 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** written testimony Against HB6097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Brenda Shufelt I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

Our History will move on and you can not stop that with a Bill like this . It is most important that our children can understand that History. debate the meaning of that History and decide for themselves whatthat History means. Allow them to use their minds to think critically about these issues

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Brenda Shufelt



## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Peggy French <pdfrench19@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 6:15 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Peggy French. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

Failure to provide students correct information regarding history is condemning this country to an uneducated adult. History is part of basic Civics and Government.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Peggy French

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Laraine <rainym65@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:18 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony against HB 5097

Taylor Thrush, the Committee Clerk: tthrush@house.mi.gov

Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Laraine Myers Van Lopik. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history. I truly believe our country's future depends on TRUTHFUL history being taught to the future leaders.. not any whitewashed version that is being proposed.. an even worse and more false white washed version than I learned in school.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Laraine Myers Van Lopik

Sent from my iPhone

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Penny Rose <kzoopenny@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 9:18 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Penny Rose. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,  
Penny Rose

Sent from my iPhone

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Sara Overwater <sara.overwater@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 7:22 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Sara Overwater. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers and students should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

Turn off Fox News and spend some time in an actual classroom.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Sara Overwater

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Virginia David <virginia.david@wmich.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 8:25 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Dr. Virginia David. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Dr. Virginia David  
Faculty Specialist I  
Coordinator of TESOL programs  
College of Education and Human Development Western Michigan University

Sent from my iPad

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Tracy C <travelingtrue@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 7:03 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Written Testimony AGAINST HB 5997

Subject: Written Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Tracy Cobb. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

Teachers (and I am a retired teacher) should be able to teach the truth of the history of this country. We need to teach that so we do not repeat it and in the present times. Today there is still so much racism, and hatred toward those that are different. Children can make the difference in loving and acceptance of others. You need to end this bill so that can happen. It amazes me that people who are not teachers want us not to teach the truth and continue racism and ignorance! Shame!

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Tracy Cobb

Sent from my iPad

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** Karen Chadwick <karen.chadwick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2021 11:57 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Testimony Against HB 5097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Karen Chadwick. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss history, particularly uncomfortable history.

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Sincerely,

Karen Chadwick

Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Why stay we on the earth unless to grow? Rbt Browning  
<https://karen-chadwick.blogspot.com/>

## Taylor Thrush

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**From:** ANGELA ANDERSON <MSANDERSON3@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 27, 2021 5:11 PM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush  
**Subject:** Against HB 6097

To the members of the House Education Committee:

My name is Angela Anderson. I write to you today in opposition to HB 5097. Our teachers, and students, should have the freedom to discuss ALL-INCLUSIVE AND REAL HISTORY, particularly uncomfortable history; nit just inequitably selected & tailored parts of it! If history excludes Black, Indigenous, and other people of color are minimized completely omitted then you KNOW it's NOT the truest account of any retelling of history. Too much was contributes to this country at the hands, blood sweat and tears of BIPOC communities to be ignored, denied and literally eliminated. If this country is about TRUTH then telling history without hesitation or reservation is a must! We can all continue learning the TRUTH and unlearning the tales. Let's be rich in truth and integrity!

I urge the members of the committee to vote against HB 5097.

Thank you!